

Application Serial No. 10/594,174  
Response to Office Action dated February 18, 2009

PATENT  
Docket: CU-5102

### REMARKS

In the Office Action the pending claims 7-16 are pending, claim 16 is withdrawn, and claims 7-15 are rejected. The Applicant has amended the claims. No new matter has been added. The Applicant believes that this amendment to the claims overcomes the rejections or the rejections are traversed by argument below.

In the claims, please amend claims 7 and 9-15. The amendments to the claims are made for clarity. No new matter is added. The amendments to the claims can be viewed in the Amendments section of this paper in the Listing of claims beginning on page 3.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 7-15 for informalities. In response, the Applicant has amended the claims to accurately recite steps. The Applicant believes that this amendment is fully responsive to the rejection and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claims 7-15 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Regarding the term "shielding portion" in claim 7, the Applicant has amended the claim to change "portion" to "shielding element containing material which can shield an energy". This light shielding element is "part of the patterning substrate" made of a light shielding material. The Applicant believes that since the amendment provides clarity to the claim, the amendment overcomes the rejection.

Regarding the term "cell adhesion inhibiting portion" of claims 10-12, the claims have been amended to clarify that an energy irradiation to prevent the cell from adhering is further conducted in the cell adhesion process. This energy irradiation to prevent the cell from adhering, conducted in the cell adhesion process, is different from the energy irradiation to form a pattern.

Claims 13-15 are amended herein to clarify that an energy irradiation to remove

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the cell from the cell adhesion inhibiting portion is further conducted in the cell pattern retaining process. This energy irradiation to remove the cell from the cell adhesion inhibiting portion conducted in the cell pattern retaining process is different from the energy irradiation to form a pattern.

Regarding the Examiners comment that "it is not apparent that a cell adhesion patter is retained," the Applicant submits that in the present invention, the cell adhesion portion and the cell adhesion inhibiting portion are formed in pattern. However, it is difficult to make the cell adhesion inhibiting portion a portion where the cells are completely prevented from adhering, and some cells may also adhere on the cell adhesion inhibiting portion at the time of adhering cells. Moreover, there is a possibility of grown cells intruding on the cell adhesion inhibiting portion while cells are cultured on the cell adhesion portion.

In view of this, in the present invention, action of the photocatalyst is influencing the cells adhered to the cell adhesion inhibiting portion by irradiating the energy to the pattern-formed cell adhesion inhibiting portion, i.e., by irradiating the energy again to the same region where energy is previously irradiated in order to form a cell adhesion inhibiting portion. Thereby, it becomes possible to remove cells adhered to the cell adhesion inhibiting portion due to the reasons given above, and also to retain a status whereby the cells are adhered only to the cell adhesion portion which is originally targeted (page 7, lines 14-23, specification).

Therefore, it is apparent that cell pattern adhered to the cell adhesion portion can be retained by irradiating the energy to remove the cells from the cell adhesion inhibiting portion during the cell pattern retaining process, as presented in the present invention. The Applicant submits, therefore, that the amended claims are definite. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the claims.

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### CONCLUSIONS

The Applicant believes that this amendment is responsive to all points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action dated February 18, 2009. The Applicant respectfully contends that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that this application should be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

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